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Message Text

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61
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-01 /096 W
---------- 075378
R 181320Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8212
INFO AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, IN
SUBJ: LOCKHEED PETROLEUM SERVICES NEGOTIATING TO TAP TWG
BOMBAY HIGH WELLS ON EXPERIMENTAL BASIS

1. WE WERE INFORMED TODAY BY MR. A.J.R. BERGQUIST, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FOR LOCKHEED PETROLEUM SERVICES LIMITED (LPS), THAT LPS IS IN THE FINAL STAGES OF NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT TO TAP TWO WELLS IN THE BOMBAY HIGH BY THE ATMOSPHERIC METHOD. LPS IS A WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION, LOCATED IN NEW WESTMINSTER, BRITISH COLOMBIA.

2. LPS IS IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING A FINAL OFFER TO THE OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION OF INDIA (ONGC) FOR THE EXPERIMENTAL TAPPING OF THE FIRST TWO WELLS OF THE BOMBAY HIGH. THIS INITIAL STAGE INVOLVES BRINGING LOCKHEED'S 250 FOOT WORK
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SHIP FROM THE NORTHERN PART OF THE NORTH SEA TO THE BOMBAY

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HIGH. BERGQUIST SAYS THAT THE SHIP WOULD BE SAILED TO INDIA AFTER THE WEATHER GETS TOO COLD TO OPERATE WHERE IT IS AND AFTER THE MONSOON IN THE ARABIAN SEA. HE ESTIMATES THAT IT WILL TAKE FROM 20-25 DAYS TO MAKE THE PASSAGE, ASSUMING THAT THE SUEZ CANAL IS OPEN.

3. THE EXPERIMENTAL PHASE WILL INVOLVE A CONTRACT OF ABOUT DOLS 2 MILLION, AND BERGQUIST IS HOPEFUL THAT THE EXPERIMENT WILL CONVINCE THE ONGC TO USE THE FIRM'S ATMOSPHERIC TECHNIQUE FOR THE WHOLE OF THE BOMBAY HIGH FIELD. THIS WOULD REDUCE THE NUMBER OF DRILLING PLATFORMS FROM THE 14 WHICH ONGC CURRENTLY ESTIMATES WILL BE DEEDED AFTER THE FIELD IS IN FULL OPERATION TO THREE, AND BERGQUIST SAYS WOULD BRING THE FIELD INTO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION SEVERAL MONTHS EARLIER.

4. COMMENT: WHEN AN EMBASSY OFFICER GOT A GENERAL FILL IN ON THE INDIAN OIL EXPLORATION SYSTEM FROM DR. RAMASWAMY, EXPLORATION ADVISER FOR THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, EARLIER THIS WEEK, HE DID NOT MENTION THAT BERGQUIST WAS IN TOWN AND THAT HE HAD BEEN NEGOTIATING ATMOSPHERIC EXPLOITATION WITH HIM. IT LOOKS TO US LIKE THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND THE ONGC MAY BE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF THE ATMOSPHERIC
METHOD. OUR TALK WITH RAMASWAMY WAS SUMMARIZED IN A MEMORANDUM OF CONVERATION OF APRIL 15, COPIES OF WHICH ARE BEING POUCHED TO MORLEY AND KATZ.
SAXBE

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